SOCA3169

DEATH, DYING AND HUMAN MORTALITY

SEMESTER 1, 2008

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Consultation hours at Callaghan: Tuesday 12 noon till 1 p.m. or by appointment

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2008

CTS Download Date: 5 February 2008
Course Overview

Course Coordinator  Michael Goddard  
Semester  Semester 1 - 2008  
Unit Weighting  10  
Teaching Methods  Lecture  
Tutorial  

Brief Course Description  
Dying, death and human mortality are everyday conditions of social life. This course extends the theoretical insights of the anthropology of dying and death to an exploration of social theory and human mortality. Central themes include: historical and cross-cultural analysis of dying and death, the social management of human mortality, ethical and existential dimensions of human finitude.

Contact Hours  
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term  
Tutorial for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term  

Learning Materials/Texts  
There is no set text for this course. The readings for the tutorials have been reproduced in a booklet form (SOCA3169 *Death, Dying and Human Mortality*). At Ourimbah Campus this can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop: At Callaghan campus it can be purchased from Uprint (behind Shortland Building).

Course Objectives  
On successful completion of this course students will be expected to demonstrate:
1. an understanding of the relevant theoretical perspectives to which they are introduced;
2. an ability to discuss key concepts in relation to dying, death and human mortality in contemporary societies;
3. oral skills in discussing concept and theories;
4. analytical skills in critically evaluating the relevant literature;
5. written skills in developing and presenting an informed, critical argument.

Course Content  
Theoretical perspectives central to understandings of dying and death;  
Key concepts and theorists within the anthropology of dying and death;  
Historical and cross-cultural analysis of dying and death;  
The anthropology and social management of human mortality;  
Ethical and existential issues of human finitude;  
Mortuary procedures and social attitudes toward the dead.

Assessment Items  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>Essay, 1600 words, 30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Essay, 1600 words, 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination: Formal</td>
<td>Exam, 3 hrs, 40%</td>
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Assumed Knowledge  
40 units at 1000 level.
Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.
Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2008

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students [https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au](https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au)
Faculty Information

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

Callaghan campus
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

City Precinct
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

Ourimbah campus
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

Faculty website

Faculty of Education and Arts

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

Contact details

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

The Dean of Students
Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.
STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students
Faculty of Education and Arts
School of Humanities & Social Science
SOCA3169 Death, Dying and Human Mortality
Important Additional Information

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

**Hard copy submission:**
- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use double spacing, and include page numbers.
- Assignments should be handed in to the Lecturer
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:
- **Essay 1, Essay 2.**

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Penalties for Late Assignments**
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.


**Special Circumstances**
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html

No Assignment Re-submission

Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Re-marks & Moderations

A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result - in the course to which the assessment item contributes - has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under ‘Procedures for Appeal Against a Final Result’ (Refer - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/).

Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:

1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark
5. the number of original markers, that is,
   a) whether there was a single marker, or
   b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Re-marks may be undertaken by:

1. the original marker; or
2. an alternate internal marker; or
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:

1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

For further detail on this University policy refer - ‘Re-marks and Moderations - Procedure 000769’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

Special Circumstances

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html
No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:  
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from the lecturer during class or in office hours.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:


Student Representatives
Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:


Course Assessment dates and information:

Essay 1. Due Week 5, 1600 words (min requirement: longer essays will be accepted). Worth 30% of total course marks.

Topic: Good Death / Bad Death.

Related to lecture material and readings in the early part of the course.
Students will be asked to apply criteria from several articles on ‘Good Death’ and ‘Bad Death’ to the death of the character Nicholas in Tolstoy’s novel ‘Anna Karenina’ Part 5, Section 20.
Resources and substantive requirements for this essay will be discussed in class.
**Essay 2.** Due Week 10. This is listed in the course outline as a 1600 word essay for convenience. It is divided into two parts: (1) A Scrapbook (credited as equivalent of writing 600 words) and (2) an Essay of 1000 words (min. requirement: longer essays will be accepted). Together they are worth 30% of total course marks:- 10% for the scrapbook aspect, 20% for the essay.

**Topic:** Death notices and ‘In Memoriam’ notices.

1. compile a scrap book of at least 50 death notices and ‘In Memoriam’ notices clipped from newspapers during this semester. (10%)
2. What do the phraseology, metaphors, figures of speech (tropes) and other linguistic aspects of the notices you have clipped tell us about attitudes toward death in Australian society?

**Exam.** Three (3) hours, worth 40% of total marks. This will consist of Six ‘either/or’ questions (e.g., Q1, Either (a).… Or (b).….. etc) requiring short essay answers, addressing themes addressed in lectures and readings. The Exam will be discussed in Lecture/tutorial time during the course.

**Lecture Topics and Readings**

Basic Readings are in the Course Reader, SOCA3169 Death, Dying and Human Mortality.

1. Death and Emotion
   Reading:

2. Good Death and Bad Death
   Reading:

3. Death and the pragmatics of life
   Reading:

4. Death as a rite of passage
   Reading:

5. Ritual and death
   Reading:

6. Sanitised Death
   Reading:

7. Death and existentialist issues
   Reading:

8. Double burial
   Reading:

9. Death and the Mind-Body Problem—a Western view
Reading:

10. Death and the Mind-Body problem—a non-Western view
Reading:

11. Social explanations for death
Reading:

12. Death and Ancestors
Reading:

13. Death and the regeneration of life
Reading: